

**Remarks**

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 2, 2005. By the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 4, 17 and 19 are amended, and claims 3, 5 and 6 are canceled. Claims 20-23 are newly introduced, and thus claims 1, 2, 4, and 7-23 are pending in the application after the amendments. No new matter is added by the foregoing amendments, and supports for the amendments can be found throughout the drawings, the specification and claims as originally filed. For example, supports for the particular types of batteries to be received in the housing of the battery container, which are recited in new claims 20-23, can be found in paragraphs [00037] and [00038] along with the drawings of the application as originally filed.

The Examiner has objected to claim 1 because of certain informalities specified in the Office Action. Such informalities in claims 1 and 17 are corrected by the foregoing amendments.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Inoue et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,645,325).

The present invention is directed to a battery container for an electric device, and each of claims 1, 2, 4, and 7-19 as amended require, among other limitations, (i) that the main body (or the housing) is configured to selectively accommodate therein one battery or a set of batteries selected from a group consisting of two AA type batteries, one CRV3 battery, and one customized battery of rectangular shape particularly adapted for use with the electric device, (ii) that the main body (or the housing) includes a wrong-insertion preventing element for preventing incorrect insertion of the CRV3 battery into the enclosure of the main body (or the housing), and (iii) that the main body (or the housing) further includes another wrong-insertion

preventing element for preventing incorrect insertion of the customized battery into the enclosure of the main body (or the housing). See, in particular, independent claims 1 and 17.

Inoue et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,645,325) disclose a battery container 6 having a first receiving portion 7 for receiving a package of battery cells 10 (see FIG. 2A) and a second receiving portion 9 for receiving two AA type batteries 8 (FIG. 2B), and a lid 11 for covering the opening of the battery container 6.

Inoue et al., however, fail to disclose or teach at least (i)-(iii) of the above-identified limitations of the present invention as claimed. First of all, the Inoue et al. disclosure fails to disclose or teach that the battery container 6 is configured to selectively accommodate one battery or a set of batteries selected from a group consisting of two AA type batteries, one CRV3 battery, and one customized battery of rectangular shape, as required by the above limitation (i) of the invention. To the contrary, Inoue et al. specifically teach that the container 6 is adapted to accommodate two kinds of batteries which are different from each other in their output voltage and shape, but not three different types of batteries as required by the present invention as claimed. See column 3, lines 57-68 of the Inoue et al. disclosure. Moreover, Inoue et al. are entirely silent that the batteries to be received in the container 6 include one CRV3 battery and one customized battery of rectangular shape. The battery package 10 is different from the CRV3 battery as illustrated in FIG. 2B of the present application, and the customized battery of rectangular shape is not at all taught in the Inoue et al. disclosure as one type of battery to be received in the container 6.

Moreover, since Inoue et al. does not teach that the container 6 is configured to receive a CRV3 battery therein, the disclosure further fails to disclose or teach that the housing of the container includes a wrong-insertion preventing element for preventing

incorrect insertion of the CRV3 battery, as required by the above limitation (ii) of the invention.

Furthermore, the Inoue et al. disclosure also fails to disclose or teach that the container housing further includes another wrong-insertion preventing element for preventing incorrect insertion of the customized battery of rectangular shape into the enclosure of the container housing, as required by the above limitation (iii) of the invention. The only element for preventing wrong insertion of the battery in Inoue et al. device is projection 7c which is adapted to engage into groove 10c of battery package 10 of the type shown in FIG. 2A, and thus there is absolutely no other wrong-insertion preventing element taught for preventing incorrect insertion of the customized battery of rectangular shape.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 4, and 7-19 are patentably distinct over the cited references of record.

Furthermore, Applicants also note that Claims 17-19 as amended further require, in addition to the above-identified limitations (i)-(iii), that the battery container further includes an electrical connection blocking element for blocking an electrical connection between at least one of the AA type batteries and the conductive element of the covering member when the AA type batteries are inserted within the enclosure of the housing in a wrong direction.

Applicants respectfully submit that newly introduced claims 20-23 are also patentably distinct over the cited references of record at least for the reason that Inoue et al. fail to disclose or teach, among other limitations of the claims, (a) that the housing is configured to selectively accommodate therein one battery or a set of batteries selected from a group consisting of two batteries of cylindrical shape, one battery of generally oval shape with two circular (narrow) sides and two generally flat

wide sides, one wide sides of which including a recessed portion formed therein, and one battery of generally rectangular shape including a recessed portion formed therein, (b) that the housing includes a wrong-insertion preventing member for preventing incorrect insertion of the one battery of generally oval shape into the enclosure of the housing, and (c) that the main body further includes another wrong-insertion preventing member for preventing incorrect insertion of the one battery of generally rectangular shape into the enclosure of the housing.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims currently pending in this application, namely claims 1, 2, 4, and 7-23, are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and early notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

February 2, 2006



Wesley W. Whitmyer, Jr., Registration No. 33,558  
Hyun Jong Park, Limited Recognition No. L0076  
Attorneys for Applicants  
ST.ONGE STEWARD JOHNSTON & REENS LLC  
986 Bedford Street  
Stamford, CT 06905-5619  
203 324-6155